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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADS-00 OCS-06 L-03 H-01 PPT-01
ICAE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 ISAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 HA-06 INRE-00 /052 W

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SHUM, IS, CASC

SUBJECT: REPORT OF BLACK HEBREW ROUNDUP IN EILAT

REF: TEL AVIV 18010

1. JERUSALEM POST REPORTER JOAN BORSTEN FILED A REPORT ON
OCTOBER 5, TITLED "BLACK HEBREW ROUNDUP IN EILAT -- PART
OF PLAN TO RID CITY OF ILLEGALS, POLICE SAY." TEXT FOLLOWS

- THE EILAT POLICE ROUND-UP LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT OF AN
ESTIMATED DOZEN FORMER BLACK HEBREWS WAS PART OF A DRIVE TO
RID THE CITY OF ITS ILLEGAL RESIDENTS, THE NATIONAL POLICE
SPOKESMAN LAST NIGHT TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST.

- HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT AN ACTION DIRECTED AT
THE SMALL COMMUNITY OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE DEFECTED FROM
THE RANKS OF THE MESSIANIC CULT CENTERED IN DIMONA. AFRI
CANS WERE ALSO ARRESTED, HE SAID.

- THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT YET CLEAR IF THE
FORMER CULT MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN LIVING ILLEGALLY
IN THE COUNTRY FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS, WOULD BE PROSECUTED.

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- THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE POLICE'S SOUTHERN REGION RE-
FUSED TO SAY WHY THE EILAT GROUP HAD BEEN SINGLED OUT.
SOME 2,000 BLACK HEBREWS, ALL BELIEVED TO BE WITHOUT VALID
VISAS, ARE LIVING IN DIMONA, ARAD AND MITZPE RAMON.

THEIR RIGHT TO REMAIN IN ISRAEL HAS NOT BEEN CHALLENGED
BY THE POLICE FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS, REPORTEDLY AS
THE RESULT OF AN ORDER FROM NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

- DAVID YITZHAK, A LAWYER FOR SIX OF THE EILAT RESI-
DENTS ARRESTED, ALL OF WHOM HAVE APPLIED FOR CITIZENSHIP
OR PERMANENT RESIDENCE MANY TIMES, SAID HE PLANS TO
PETITION THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE TO CANCEL THE CHARGES
BEFORE THE CASES REACH THE MAGISTRATES COURT. IF IT IS
PROVED THAT HIS CLIENTS HAVE NO PERMIT TO LIVE IN ISRAEL,
THE MAGISTRATE WILL HAVE NO LEGAL CHOICE BUT TO ORDER
DEPORTATION, YITZHAK SAID.

- PASSPORTS AND DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS DRIVERS' LICENSES,
HAD BEEN CONFISCATED, HE ADDED. HE CLAIMED THAT ONE OF

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY JL DATE 8/20/81

RDS for XDS TEXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

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THE FORMER BLACK HEBREWS WAS PHOTOGRAPHED, FINGERPRINTED AND HELD FOR FIVE HOURS, ALTHOUGH HE HOLDS A VALID TOURIST VISA. END TEXT.

2. BORSTEN'S ACCOUNT IS EXAGGERATED AS WAS THE STORY NOTED IN REFTTEL. THE "ROUND-UP" INVOLVES THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS AND POSSIBLY THREE OTHERS, ALL BLACKS. COMMENT: BORSTEN IS CURRENTLY WRITING A LENGTHY REPORT ON THE BLACK HEBREW SITUATION IN ISRAEL. SHE WILL REPORTEDLY CHALLENGE SOME OF THE GLASS COMMITTEE REPORT'S CONCLUSIONS AND IN GENERAL ATTEMPT TO SENSATIONALIZE THE ISSUE. LEWIS
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